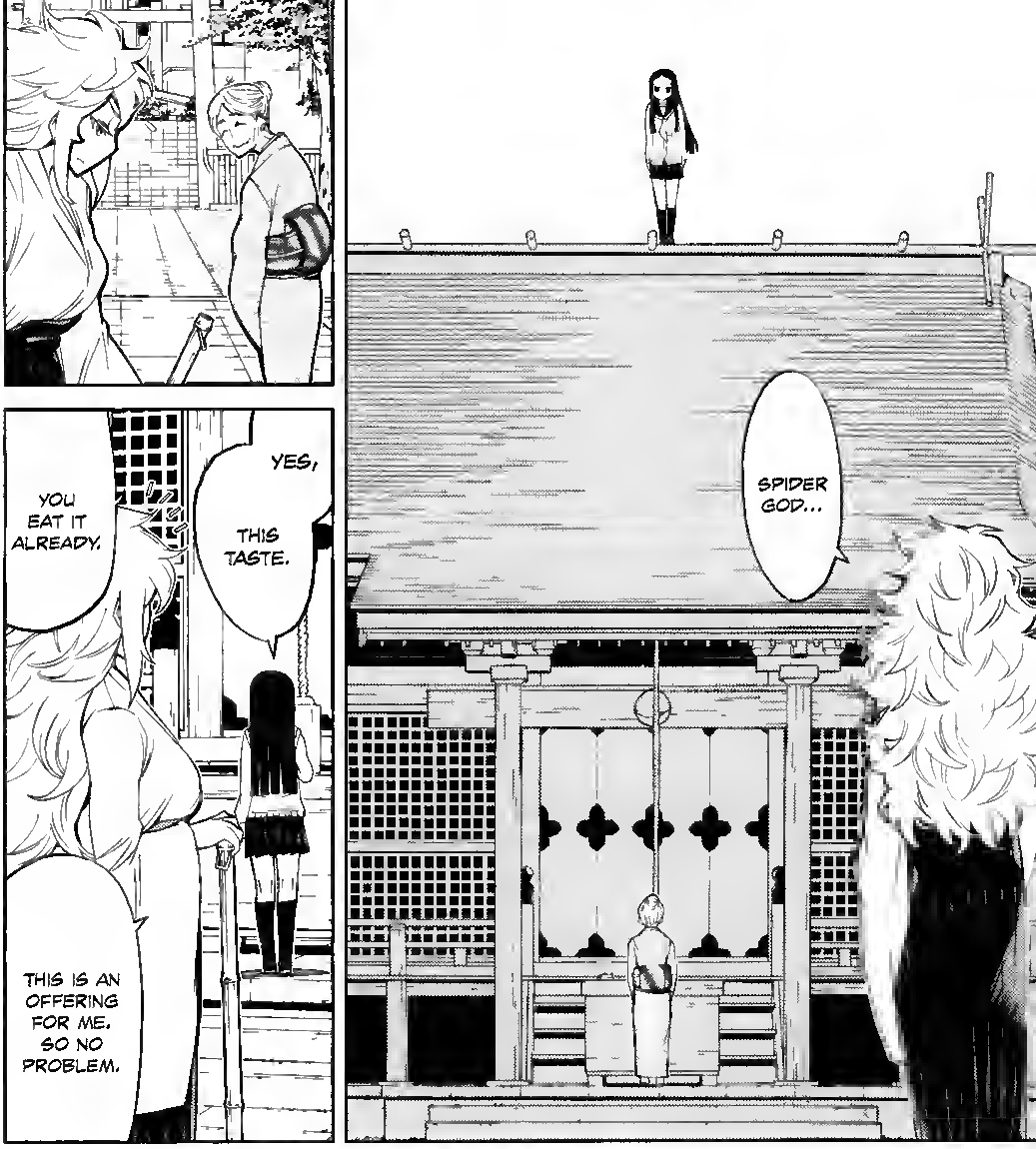
第十六和

TL NOTE: HIGAN ARE BUDDHIST MEMORIAL SERVICES. THEY OCCUR DURING BOTH THE SPRING AND AUTUMNAL EQUINOX


SPIDER GOD...
YES, THIS TASTE.
YOU EAT IT ALREADY.
THIS IS AN OFFERING FOR ME. SO NO PROBLEM.

A GOD... DOESN'T DEAL WITH INDIVIDUAL WISHES ONE BY ONE.
IS THAT SO?
HUPMH... SHE COMES HERE LIKE EVERYDAY. MAYBE SHE'S PRAYING FOR SOME-THING.
WON'T YOU FULLFUL HER WISH?
I WON'T
WHY NOT? YOU'RE SO CHEAP.

ドドドド
YES.
WHO'S THIS?
EH?
THIS IS PRIVATE.
CALL ME NAKUA.
...WHO ARE YOU YOUNG GIRL?
THE OHAGI YOU OFFERED TODAY
WAS
EXCELLENT.
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ど
THEREFORE, I'LL LISTEN TO YOUR WISH.

Chapter 16
Nakua Awaits for the Time to Come
NAQUADEN

宮前
LET'S GO.
EH ...?
YOUR WISH IS ABOUT YOUR BROTHER WHO LIVES IN THE NEIGHBORING TOWN.
OH. HOW DO YOU KNOW...?
I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYBODY.
YOU HAVE.
YOU PRAY IN THE SHRINE EVERYDAY.
...ALL RIGHT. I'M GONNA CALL A CAB.
KUSHIKO-SAN.
YES, MA'AM.
PLEASE CALL A CAB.
AND CALL MY BROTHER
AND TELL HIM THAT I'M COMING.

ブロロロロロ
WE'RE ALMOST THERE
SEE...
コォォォ

IT'S THE MANSION ON THE HILL.
WELL... YOUR BROTHER SEEMS TO BE QUITE A WEALTHY MAN.
HE HAD SUCCESS IN A TRADING BUSINESS AND BOUGHT THE MANSION.
ゴロ
ゴロ
...WE'RE HERE.

THIS IS THE MANSION.
コ" コ" コ" コ"
コ" コ"
...I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
PLEASE FOLLOW ME.
トン トン
YOUR GUESTS ARE HERE.

...I'M MIYAMAE KOUZOU THE OWNER OF THIS MANSION.
WELCOME TO MY HOUSE.
AN UNUSUAL THING STARTED HAPPENING WITH THIS WESTERN STYLE PAINTING. THAT WAS THE BEGINNING.
PAINTING?
MY DECEASED FATHER BOUGHT IT OVERSEAS 20 YEARS AGO.
...NO ONE ELSE IN THIS HOUSE?
I'M NAKUA.
NO.
I LET MY FAMILY STAY IN THE HOTEL BECAUSE WE FELT IN DANGER.
IN DANGER?

A PAINTING OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN... WHAT ABOUT IT?
NOW YOU CAN SEE HER WHOLE FACE...
AND *THEY* STARTED APPEARING AS IF THEY RESPONDED TO IT...!
ORIGINALLY THE WOMAN IN THE PAINTING WAS LOOKING BACK...
BUT LATELY SHE STARTED TURNING HER FACE THIS WAY LITTLE BY LITTLE...

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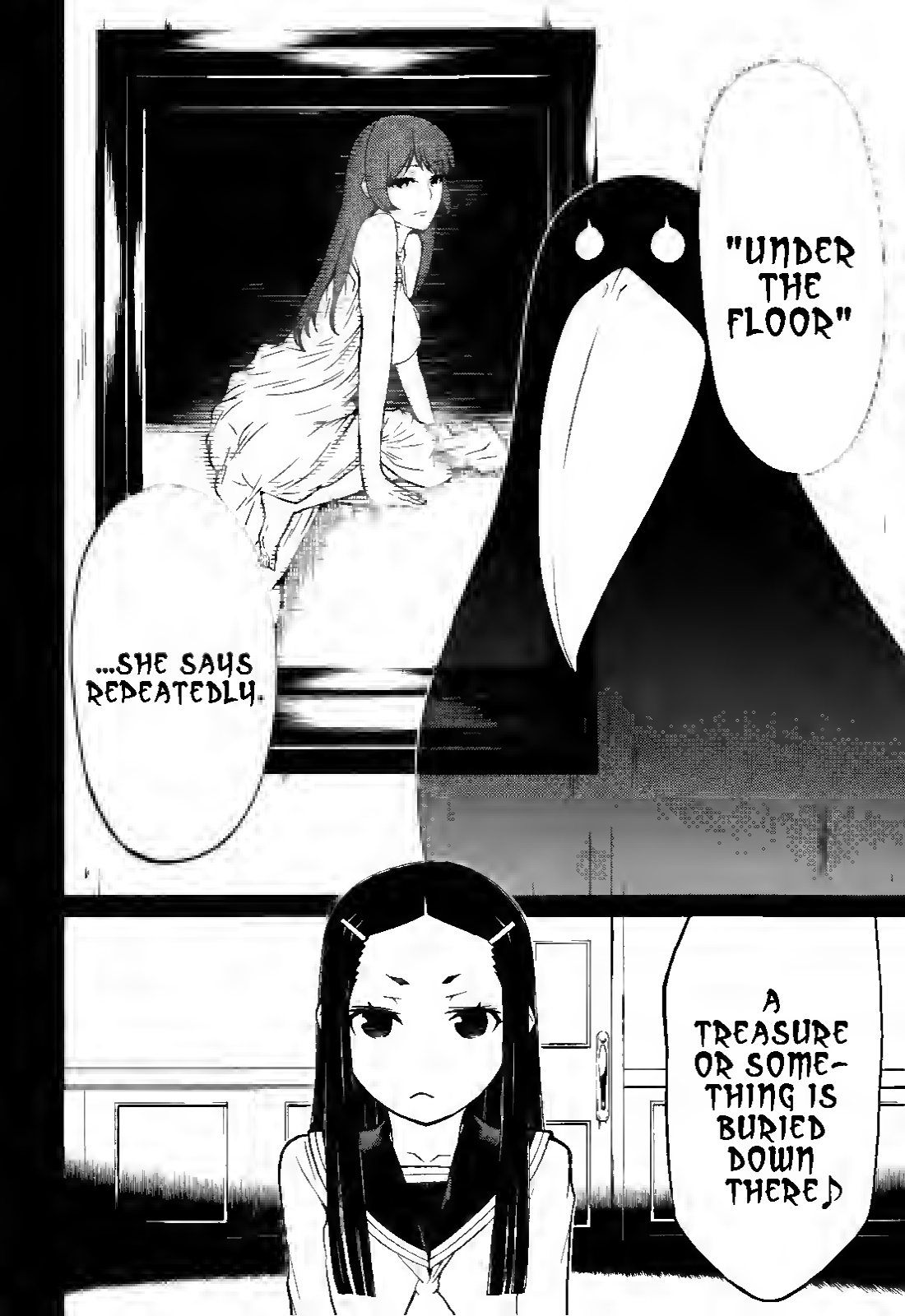
ゴゴゴ
MISTER.
YES?
THEY ARE OUTSIDE THE WINDOW...!
OH NO, NAKUA-SAMA.
TURNING HER HEAD WASN'T THE ONLY THING SHE DID.

EH...?
YOU SAID OUTSIDE THE WINDOW.
UWAAH
AAAAH
...WELL.

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE SURROUNDING THE BUILDING.
TARO-MARU!

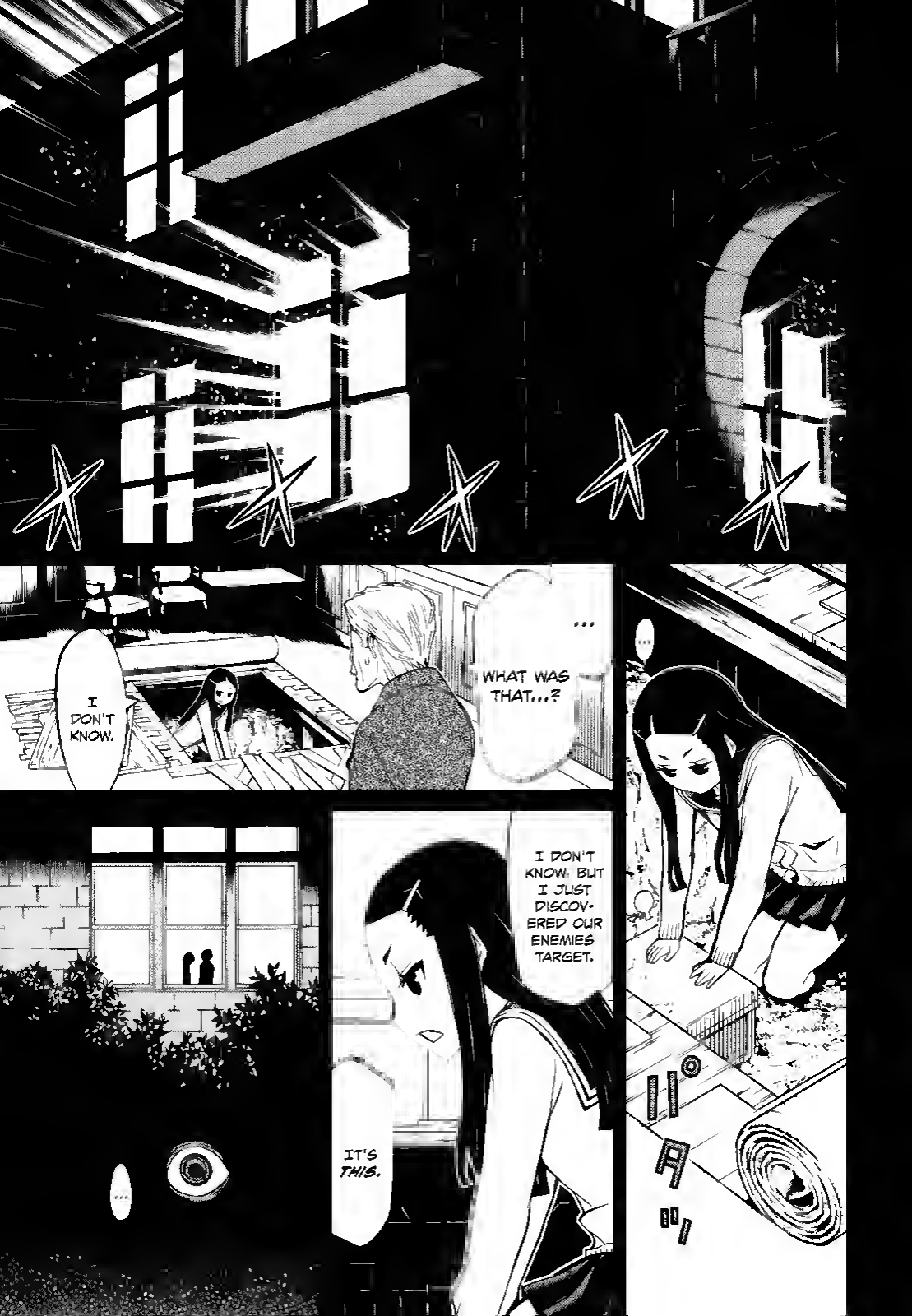
WH...
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT...?
...PASSING THROUGH THEIR BODIES...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HIS ATTACK S...
THEY RE LIKE GHOSTS...!
THAT BIG SPIDER IS DEFENDING THIS HOUSE..?
HE'S MY SERVANT TARO-MARU.

AH
NAKUA-SAMA.
YOU CAME ALREADY, YATA-GARASU.
SHOULD YOU CALL ME, NAKUA-SAMA, I'LL BE THERE AT ONCE.
SO YOU FOUND OUT?
YES.
THIS PAINTING IS SPEAKING SO SLOWLY
THAT HUMANS CAN'T UNDER-STAND...
...WHAT SHE'S SAYING.
WELL.
SO WHAT'S SHE SAYING?


"UNDER THE FLOOR"
...SHE SAYS REPEATEDLY.
A TREASURE OR SOMETHING IS BURIED DOWN THERE♪

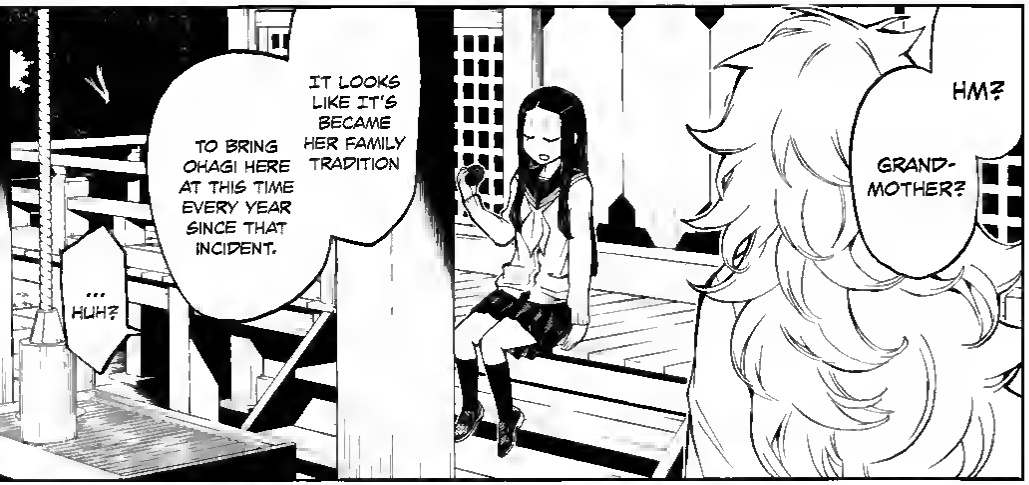
UWAH
AHH
I FOUND SOMETHING

BACK OFF.


...
WHAT WAS THAT...?
I DON'T KNOW.
11月11日
I DON'T KNOW. BUT I JUST DISCOVERED OUR ENEMIES TARGET.
IT'S THIS.
...

HEY, TARO.
HI.
I WAS CALLED TO COME HERE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I WAS LISTENING TO HER OLD STORY.
OLD STORY?
IT LOOKS LIKE A STORY FROM BEFORE YOU EVEN MERGED WITH TARO-MARU.
MERGE ...

HMPH
THIS OHAGI HAS THE SAME TASTE AS BEFORE.
SAME AS HER GRAND-MOTHER'S.


HM?
GRAND-MOTHER?
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S BECAME HER FAMILY TRADITION
TO BRING OHAGI HERE AT THIS TIME EVERY YEAR SINCE THAT INCIDENT.
... HUH?

YOU TALK ABOUT AN INCIDENT NOW, BUT WHEN DID THAT INCIDENT OCCUR?
LET ME TELL YOU THE REST OF THE STORY.

ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
NOW EVERY HUMAN
HAS LEFT THE HOUSE.

YEAH.
LET'S HIDE OUR PRES-ENCE.
YES♪

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ゴ
STOP RIGHT THERE.
TORAI-SHIN.

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ブーン
ブーン
ブーン

IS YOUR TARGET THE DEVICE IN THAT BOX?
...
ALL RIGHT. JUST TAKE IT.
THAT BOX BRINGS EVIL UPON THIS HOUSE...
YOU USED THOSE ARTIFICIAL GHOSTS TO FRIGHTEN THE RESIDENTS...
...AND FORCE THEM OUT OF THE HOUSE TEMPORARILY. THAT'S YOUR PLAN.
THAT PAINTING WAS SENDING US A MESSAGE.

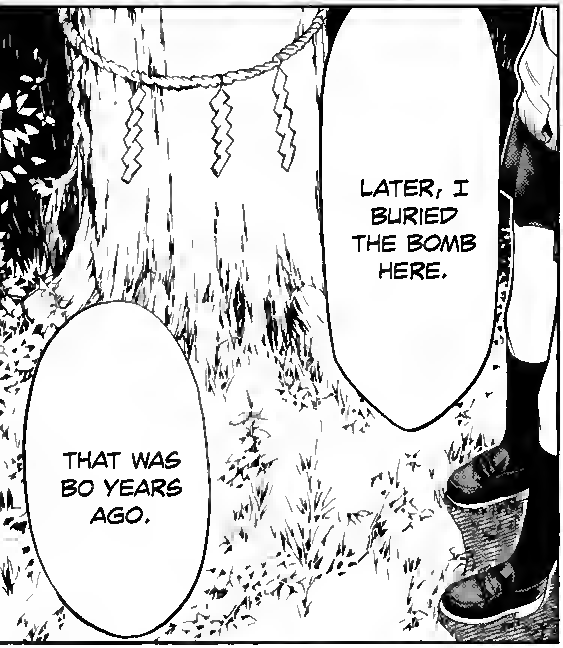
IT WAS ABOUT TO BE DETONATED IN THIS WRONG ERA.
THE REASON WE CAME HERE IS TO RESET THE DEVICE THAT WAS SENT TO THIS WRONG ERA.
REFUSE
NAKUA-SAMA, DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT THIS GUY IS TALKING ABOUT?
YOU GUYS HAD NARROW ESCAPE
REST ASSURED THE DEVICE IS WORK-ING FINE NOW.
WE STOPPED IT BY THE SKIN OF YOUR TEETH.
IT WILL HAPPEN A LONG TIME FROM NOW.
HOW-EVER,
BECAUSE IT'S DESTINED TO BE DETONATED
WE WON'T DISPOSE OF THE MINE.

HEY SPIDER GOD,
WHY ARE WE CLIMBING THE HILL AT THE BACK OF THE SHRINE?

I RECEIVED THE BOMB AND THE PAITING FROM MIYAMAE FAMILY AND KEPT THEM.
...AND
AS SOON AS THEY FINISHED TALKING, THEY DISAPPEARED.

AND THE PAINTING WAS SPEAKING.
TODAY WHEN I SAW THAT OLD WOMAN, THE GRANDDAUGHTER
IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT I'D CHECK THE PAINTING OUT.

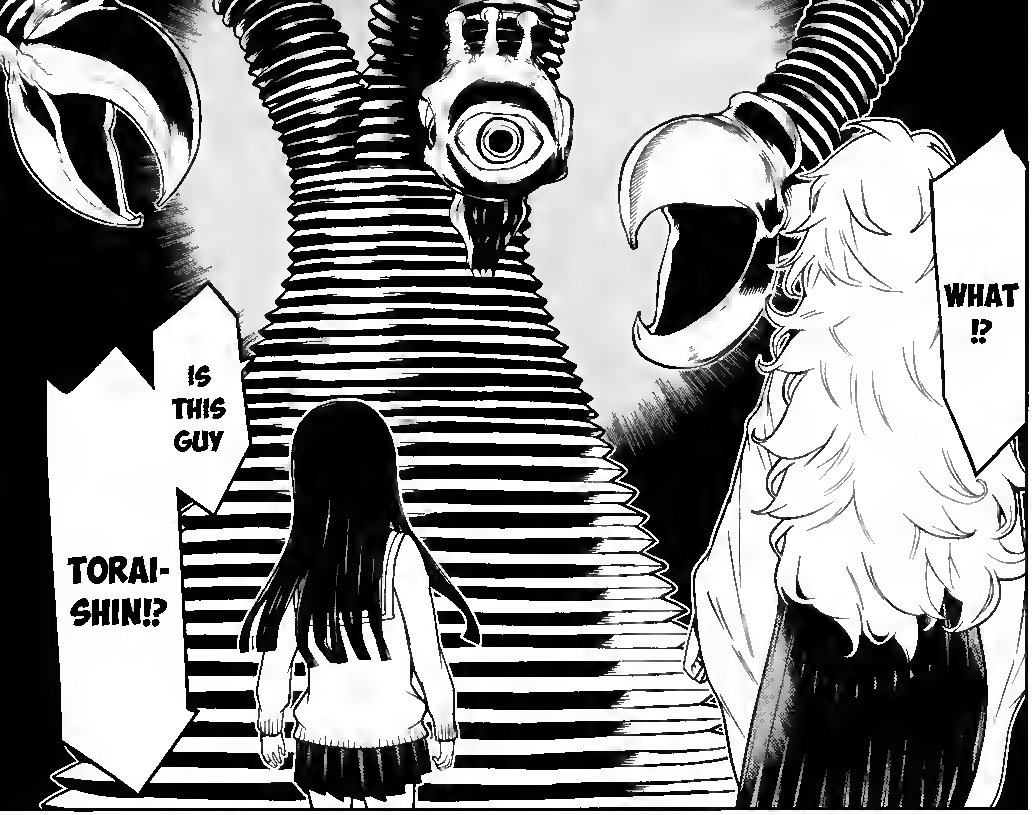
"TONIGHT", IT SAID.

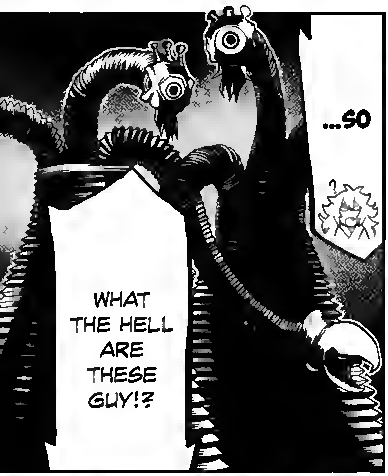

LATER, I BURIED THE BOMB HERE.
THAT WAS 80 YEARS AGO.

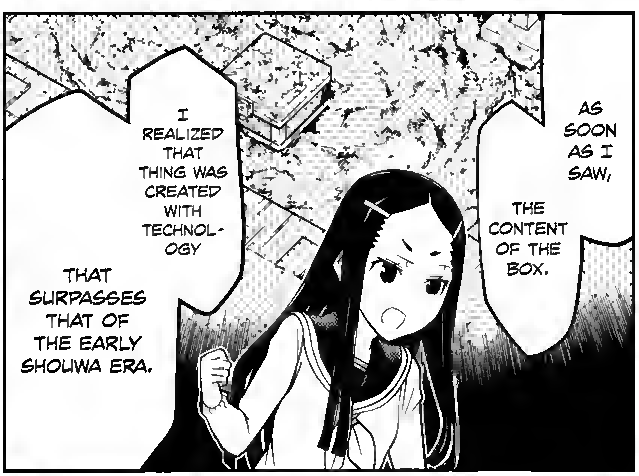
IT'S HERE.
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ

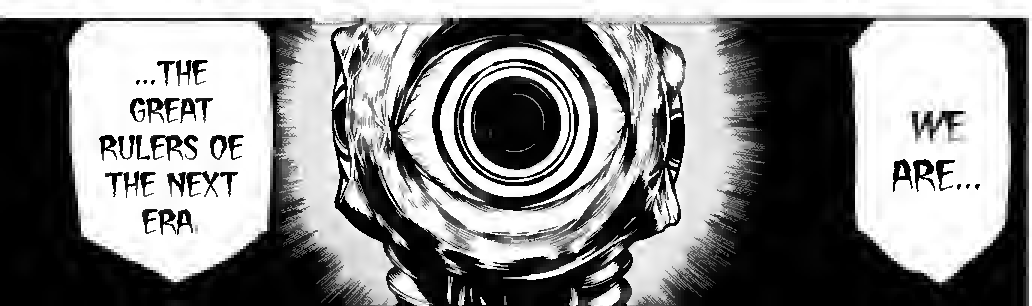
THEN "TONIGHT" YOU MENTIONED EARLIER IS....
IT'S *TONIGHT*

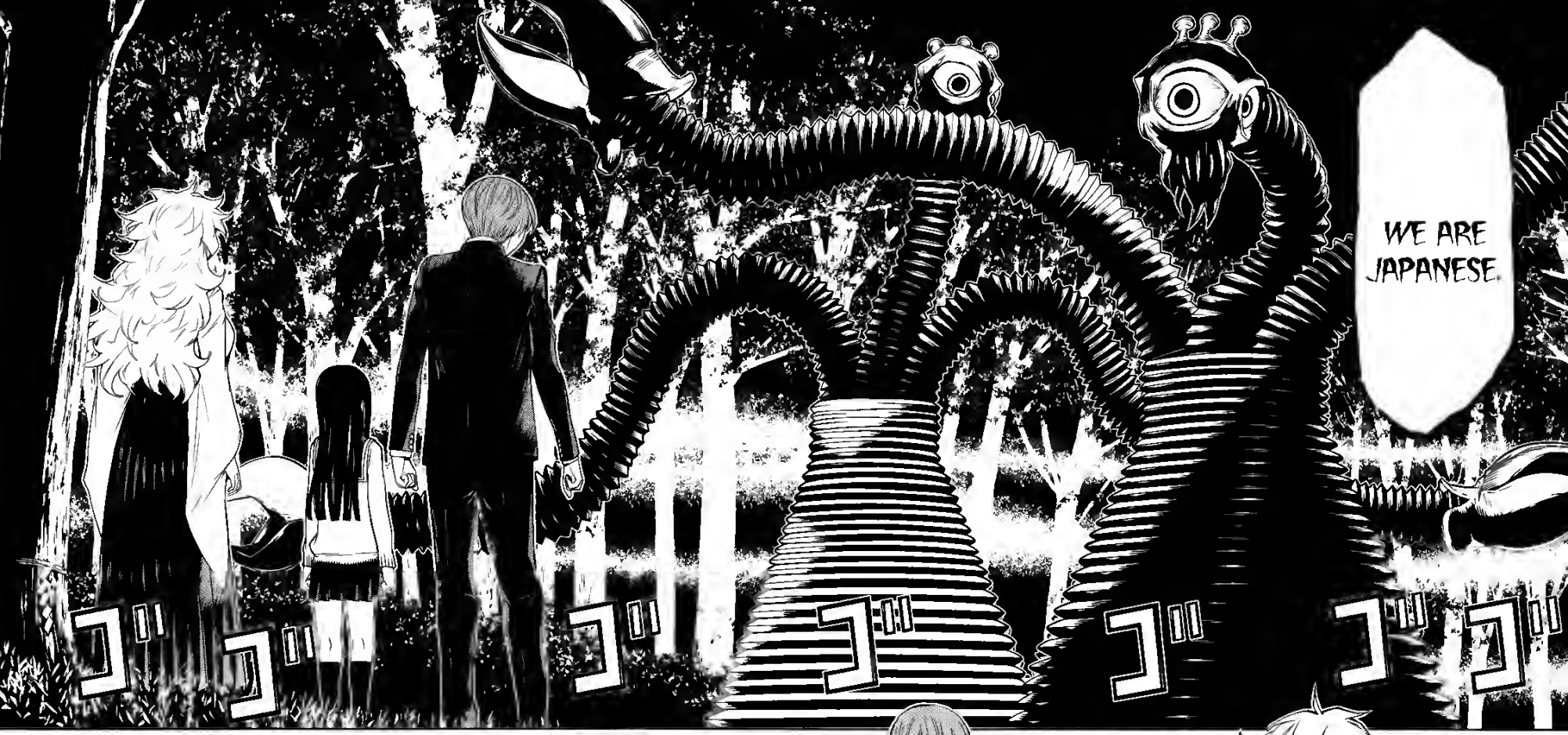
YOU BASTARDS. THAT MINE MUST BE DETO-NATED ON THE RIGHT TIME.
IN THE RIGHT PLACE
OTHERWISE THE ORDER OF TIME WILL BE RUINED...!
WHO THE HECK ARE THEY...?
THAT'S IT.
THE ORDER YOU GUYS ARE SO PARTICULAR ABOUT IS...
...THE ORDER OF THE PROSPEROUS SOCIETY...
...THAT YOU TORAI-SHIN CREATED IN THIS COUNTRY, JAPAN, IN THE DISTANT FUTURE, ISN'T IT?


WHAT !?
IS THIS GUY
TORAI-SHIN!?


...SO
WHAT THE HELL ARE THESE GUY!?


AS SOON AS I SAW,
THE CONTENT OF THE BOX.
I REALIZED THAT THING WAS CREATED WITH TECHNOL-OGY
THAT SURPASSES THAT OF THE EARLY SHOUWA ERA.


WE ARE...
...THE GREAT RULERS OE THE NEXT ERA.


WE ARE JAPANESE.
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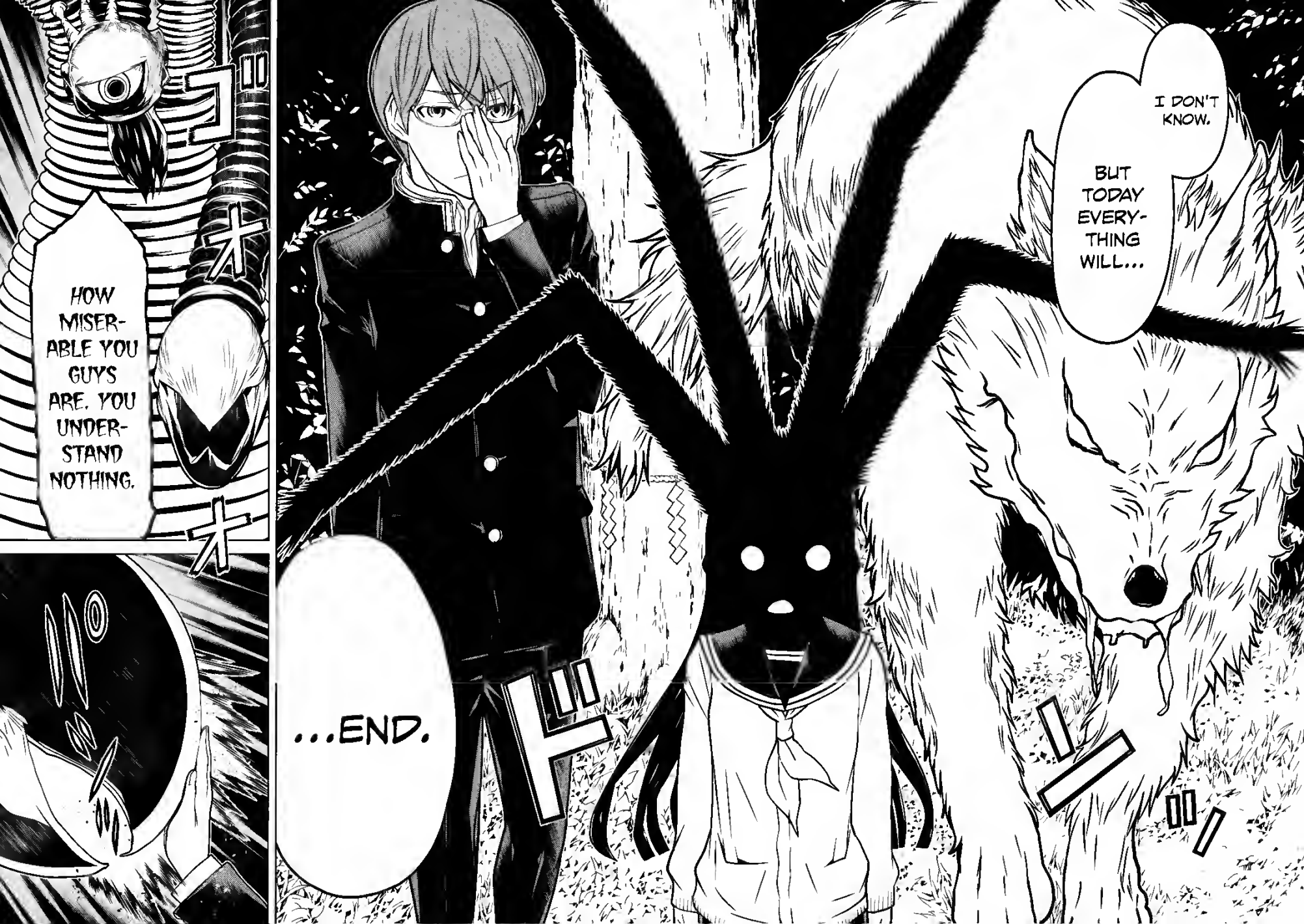
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE BEEN REALLY WAITING FOR DECADES...
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS WAIT...
THEY'RE ODDLY PARTICULAR ABOUT THE BOMB, NO, WAY TOO PARTICULAR.
THEREFORE, I ALREADY KNEW THEY'D DEFINITELY APPEAR HERE SOMEDAY.

...
HUH!?
THIS IS A RARE OPPORTU-NITY.
I BELIEVE IT.
CUT THE CRAP.
WHO'D BELIEVE SUCH A THING!?

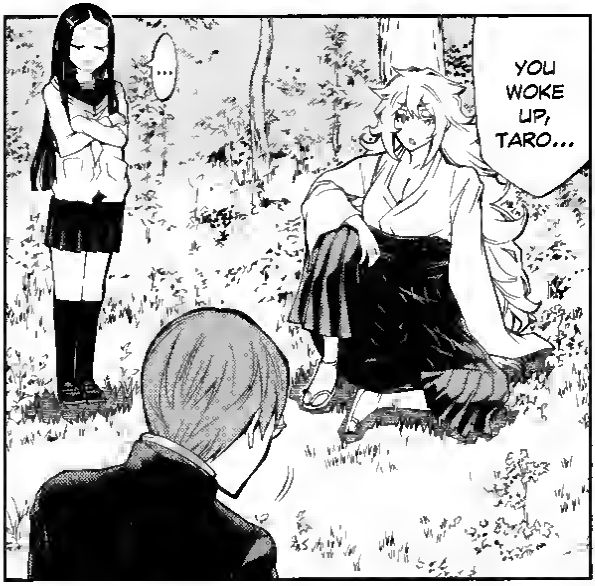

I DON'T KNOW.
BUT TODAY EVERY-THING WILL...
...END.
HOW MISER-ABLE YOU GUYS ARE. YOU UNDER-STAND NOTHING.

...THAT YOU GUYS ARE OUR ENEMIES...!
I UNDER-STAND...

FOOL-
ISH.
NOT
FOOLISH.
WE'LL
RESIST
YOU
THOR-
OUGHLY.

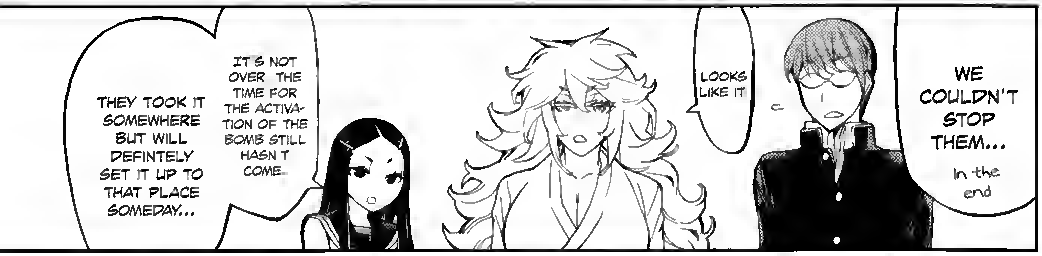
YOU GUYS ARE...
...DESTINED TO BE SUBORDI-NATE TO US.

HM...
WHAT ...?


...
YOU WOKE UP, TARO...

THEY'VE GONE SOMEWHERE ELSE...
NAKUA-SAN...

...WITH THE BOMB.


WE COULDN'T STOP THEM...
In the end
LOOKS LIKE IT
IT'S NOT OVER THE TIME FOR THE ACTIVATION OF THE BOMB STILL HASN'T COME.
THEY TOOK IT SOMEWHERE BUT WILL DEFINTELY SET IT UP TO THAT PLACE SOMEDAY...

...TO THE HOUSE ON THE HILL IN THAT NEIGHBORING TOWN....
WHEN THE TIME COMES I'LL KEEP WATCH ON IT.
UNTIL THAT HAPPENS,
WE WAIT FOR YEARS OR DECADES...

第十六和／おわり

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NAQUA-DEN

BY MITSUNAGA YASUNORI

CHAPTER 16: NAKUA AWAITS FOR THE TIME TO COME